

District Board Meeting Agenda May 4, 2013

Present: Susan Fitze, Char Foster, Karen Dillon, Mindy Tipton, Dave Shetler, Mary Boone, Susan Liller, Burt Wolf, Doug Donohoo, Trent Smith, Katie Polzin, Wendy Noffsinger Erbaugh, Dave Erbaugh, Nan Erbaugh, Julie Hostetter, Jim Moore, Ron Wenzel, Tom Bowser, Sandy Jenkins, Larry Tyner

Welcome to the Brethren Retirement Community: Janet Julian

Worshipful Work introduced

Introductions, Community Sharing, and Prayers

Minutes of the February 23, 2013 Meeting: Wendy Noffsinger Erbaugh. The minutes were affirmed.

Minutes of the April 10, 2013 Meeting: Deb Oskin. The minutes were affirmed.

Reports from District Officers, Staff & Affiliates

1. Interim Directors of Outdoor Ministries: Karen Dillon
 - 1.1. Karen and Tom have appreciated this opportunity to serve the church.
 - 1.2. They have visited the camp several times, going down at least once a week and have met with people regarding programming. They have also been visiting camps in the area to learn how they do things. Karen noted that a lot of maintenance work needs to be done at Woodland Altars.
 - 1.3. Registrations for summer camp are low. The board was asked to encourage children to attend camp.
 - 1.4. Events:
 - a) Women's Retreat: will be at Bergamo Center in Beavercreek, not at Woodland Altars. This will make mobility easier for those with physical limitations.
 - b) Adult VBS: to happen at a church this fall. Right now it looks like there will be classes in the morning and afternoon with a lunch provided. At least part of the activities will be outdoors. The idea originated at Salem.
2. Director of District Communications: Mary Boone
 - 2.1. Written report provided.
3. Treasurer's Report: Susan Liller
 - 3.1. Written report provided.
4. District Executive: Dave Shetler
 - 4.1. Written report provided.
5. Brethren Retirement Community: John Warner
 - 5.1. Written report provided.

Commission Reports

1. Gifts Discernment: Burt Wolf
 - 1.1. Gifts Discernment wants to discern the current gifts of the board and identify what further gifts are needed. Burt asked the board to complete a worksheet to help Gifts Discernment with this task.
2. Ministerial Leadership: Sandra Jenkins
 - 2.1. Written report provided.
 - 2.2. **RECOMMENDATION:** Ministerial Leadership recommended Ben Polzin for ordination.
ACTION: The recommendation from Ministerial Leadership was affirmed.
 - 2.3. The report was affirmed.

3. Missional Renewal: Susan Fitze
 - 3.1. Written report provided.
 - 3.2. The report was affirmed.
4. New Church Development: Ron Wenzel
 - 4.1. Written report provided.
 - 4.2. The report was affirmed.
5. Outdoor Ministries: Steve Conklin. Larry shared an email from Steve.
 - 5.1. Tom and Karen Dillon are getting acclimated to their new position.
 - 5.2. The water line installation is going well. The hope is that they will be ready when campers need them.
 - 5.3. The final results are not in for the fund raiser day, but Outdoor Ministries anticipates having raised approximately \$1300. There were fewer participants in 2013 than in 2012.
 - 5.4. Lots of help is needed for the next work days on May 10 and 11. There will be a special emphasis on the Family Camping Circle bath house.
 - 5.5. The spring fund raising appeal letter will be going out on May 13.
 - 5.6. The report was affirmed.
6. Resource Development: Carl Eubank
 - 6.1. Written report provided.
 - 6.2. The commission expressed thanks to Mary her work helping them draft and distribute letters.
 - 6.3. **RECOMMENDATION:** Resource Development Commission recommended a 2-year fund raising campaign to raise \$500,000. The cost for the consultant (Charles Shumate, Church Builders Plus, an agency of the Church of God Anderson) will be \$25,000, only 5% of the full campaign. \$3,000 is already budgeted for promotion/fund raising; the rest is paid quarterly throughout the campaign, so it would come from the campaign itself. **ACTION:** The recommendation from Resource Development was affirmed by consensus. Two members expressed reservations but would not block or stand in way.
7. Shared Ministries: Mindy Tipton
 - 7.1. Written report provided.
 - 7.2. **CORRECTION:** The BDM group will go to Binghamton, New York, not Prattsville.
 - 7.3. The report was affirmed.

Old Business

1. Programs and Arrangement Update: District Conference & Worship
 - 1.1. District-wide Pentecost event: 4-7 pm, May 19 at Happy Corner.
 - 1.2. District Conference: October 11-12. Friday will include a pastors CEU event from 1-5 pm. Congregational secretaries/administrative assistants will also be invited. The event will look at intercultural competencies and ways for congregations to reach out to those outside of our congregations. Mary Boone will also work with the secretaries forging better communication. There will also be dinner and worship that evening. On Saturday morning there will be short reports relating to the budget. Lunch will be in two shifts with one group of attendees eating while the other group roams booths and talks with district commission representatives.
2. **Update on Shalom Team: Dave Shetler**
 - 2.1. The team is beginning to gather people from a variety of backgrounds interested in serving on this team. They are trying to discern a name for the team that has a positive connotation (District Deacons has been proposed). They hope to have 20-25 people on the team, each connected with 2-3 congregations that they are building a relationship with. The goal is to be proactive not reactive. The team will meet quarterly, with one meeting a year serving as a training event. The hope is that members of the team will lead training events for district congregations too. Congregational participation will be voluntary. The team is

considering a test-run with 5-10 congregations before launching it as an official program. John Kinsel serves as chair of this team.

3. District Board visits with churches of the Southern Ohio District: have been informally suspended for now.
4. Feasibility Study Update: Dave Shetler reported the direction of the feasibility study up to this point. **RECOMMENDATION:** Both sides of the study recommended a special district conference. They feel the district needs the special, set-apart time to work through the results of the study and adequate time to prepare for the 2014 year of camping in light of the decisions made. **MOTION:** Judy Boles motioned that notification be distributed to the district regarding a special district conference (July 27, 10 -1 location to be determined) to discuss and act upon the district board recommendations from the neutral committee findings in regards to Woodland Altars and Outdoor Ministries with information to follow. Katie Polzin seconded the motion. **ACTION:** The action was affirmed.
 - a) Larry Tyner called a special District Board meeting (date and location TBA) to review the report from feasibility study before the special district conference. Larry will email the group with the details.
5. Other
 - 5.1. **PROPOSAL:** Dave Shetler proposed that the district cover Susan Liller's travel expenses as district treasurer. If she travels on behalf of Outdoor Ministries, the money will come from the Outdoor Ministries budget. Reimbursement for other district travel would come from Dave's budget for 2013. **MOTION:** Janet Jullian motioned that we reimburse Susan Liller's travel expenses as District Treasurer from one of the two district travel line items at the current IRS rate, retroactive to January 1. Geneva Price seconded the motion. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

New Business

1. District website clarification/policies
 - 1.1. **QUESTION:** Mary has received requests to publicize events that are not district events, but are associated with Church of the Brethren groups that are not Annual Conference agencies. She is concerned people will think the events are supported by the district (this has happened before). Should the district advertise these events in district publications? **RECOMMENDATION:** Larry and Dave research policies throughout the denomination and the District Board will revisit the issue at a later meeting.
2. District Board Retreat this November: Brethren Retirement Community. BRC has 5 guest rooms be available for housing Board members traveling from a distance. Dave Shetler and Geneva Price have also said they would be willing to host people.

Announcements

Worshipful Work

- * Where have we sensed God's Spirit leading us in this meeting?
- * For what do we have to give thanks out of our time together?
- * What do we need God's help with moving forward?
- * Where do we need God to continue to give us clarity?

Closing Prayer